ONTARIO HERITAGE TRUST
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Heritage Matters

A publication of the Ontario Heritage Trust Volume 9 Issue 2 May/June 2011

Investing in preservation

In this issue:

Seeing the unseen: archaeology and geophysics

The Enniskillen Valley Land Acquisition Project

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A message from the Chairman

Welcome to the summer issue of Heritage Matters. In this issue, we are focusing on preservation, one of the key themes in the Trust's mandate.

Communities, organizations and individuals across the province use different tools to preserve their heritage. The tools may include the use of the Ontario Heritage Act or other municipal, provincial and federal legislation; applying knowledge, financial investment or incentives; and, often, scores of volunteers. This issue features articles on artifact and building preservation, non-destructive archaeology, natural heritage and other preservation techniques.

With summer upon us, there is no better opportunity to explore and enjoy the province's heritage attractions. Many of the Trust's museum sites will open for the season – from Inge-Va in Perth to the Hudson's Bay Company Staff House in Moose Factory. Visitors to Toronto can experience a guided tour of the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre. The front façade of this majestic Yonge Street landmark recently underwent an extensive restoration – an example of heritage preservation in action.

In addition, the Trust's Doors Open Ontario program is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Looking back on these 10 years, it is clear that when we come together to showcase the landscapes, architecture and traditions that make us unique, we demonstrate the distinctive identity of each and every community. This year, hundreds of fascinating heritage sites will open their doors at 56 community events throughout the province. The printed guide is available through 1-800-ONTARIO, or you may visit the Doors Open Ontario website at www.doorsopenontario.on.ca.

With best wishes for a wonderful summer,

Tom Symons

Thomas H.B. Symons, CC, O.Ont, FRSC, LLD

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Cover: Sharon Temple National Historic Site, East Gwillimbury. The site is protected by an Ontario Heritage Trust conservation easement and recently underwent repair work to the building exterior and foundation.

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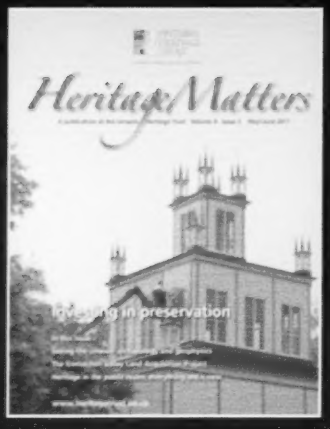

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05/11

Ontario

Accolades and awards

By Catrina Colme

As part of the province's Heritage Week celebrations, the 2010 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards were presented on February 25, 2011, at Queen's Park in Toronto. The annual awards recognize outstanding contributions to the identification, preservation, protection and promotion of Ontario's heritage.

2010 Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Awards recipients
Photo: Tessa J. Buchan

- Ten individuals from across the province received awards for Lifetime Achievement, recognizing volunteer contributions to conserving community heritage over a period of 25 years or more (see sidebar for a list of recipients).
- Deanne LeBlanc, a student from Espanola, received the individual award for Youth Achievement. Nominated by École secondaire catholique Franco-Ouest, Ms. LeBlanc was recognized for her work in promoting the French language and Franco-Ontarian culture in her community. She also received a $2,000 post-secondary scholarship jointly funded by the Ontario Heritage Trust and Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life – sponsors of the Trust's Young Heritage Leaders program.
- The John Campbell School Junior Curators, from Windsor, and the Rotherglen Environmental Program Student Leaders, from Oakville, received group awards for Youth Achievement. The John Campbell School Junior Curators are a group of 24 Grade 7 students who worked with the Windsor Community Museum to create exhibits for their school's halls, exploring themes in local history. The Rotherglen Environmental Program Student Leaders are a group of 10 Grade 8 students who lead campaigns to encourage their peers to be environmentally conscious.
- The Town of Cobourg and the City of Peterborough received awards for Community Leadership, recognizing exemplary leadership in heritage conservation and promotion.

"I am honoured to receive this award on behalf of the many volunteers in this community who have worked hard over the years to protect and preserve our town's history," said Cobourg Mayor Gil Brocanier.

Peterborough Mayor Daryl Bennett said, "This recognition represents a wonderful acknowledgment of the spirit of generations of people in helping to create a prosperous and sustainable community."

In addition to the recipients of the Lieutenant Governor's Awards, 20 young volunteers are being recognized in their communities this year through the Trust's Young Heritage Leaders program, and 129 volunteers are being honoured through the Heritage Community Recognition Program for local conservation activities.

To learn more about how to submit a nomination to any of the Ontario Heritage Trust's recognition programs, visit www.heritagetrust.on.ca.

Catrina Colme is a Senior Marketing and Communications Specialist at the Trust.

Lifetime Achievement Recipients:

Allan Anderson, Township of St. Clair
Gilles Chartrand, City of Clarence-Rockland
John Drinkwater Sibbald III, Town of Georgina
JoAnn Galbraith, Municipality of Southwest Middlesex
Gil Henderson, County of Brant
Lorne Joyce, Town of Oakville
Reginald F. Near, Separated Town of St. Marys
Yves Saint-Denis, Township of East Hawkesbury
David Tomlinson, Town of Aurora
Jane Zavitz-Bond, Municipality of Central Elgin

Heritage 2.0

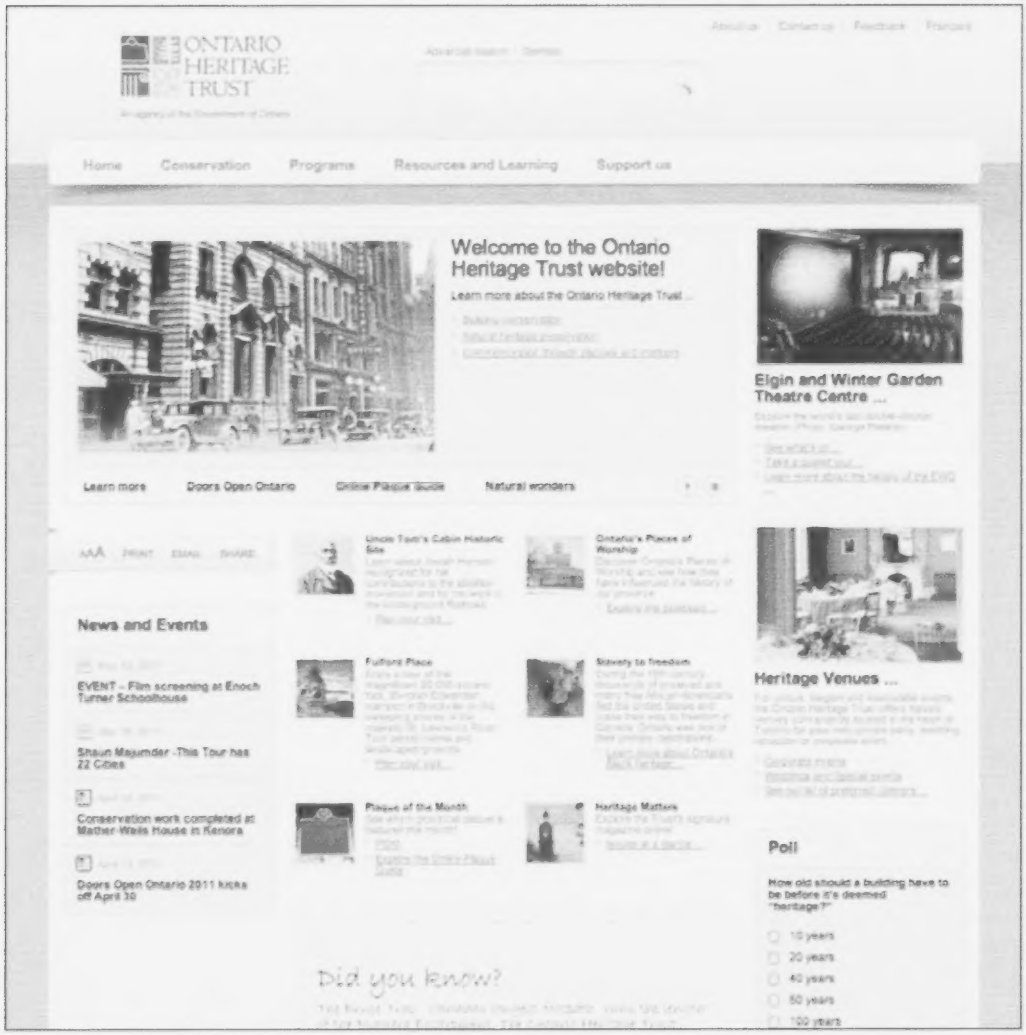
By Gordon Pim

If you haven't visited the Trust's website recently, then you're missing out. On March 24, the Trust launched its new corporate site – and the feedback has been positive.

One of the first things you'll notice when you visit the site is its fresh new look. Images are large and compelling. Content is fresh and current. And navigation is easy and intuitive.

Several new features, too, will make this a site you'll want to bookmark. The same tools remain that you've come to rely on in the past – for example, the popular Online Plaque Guide and the new-look Ontario's Places of Worship inventory. As you delve into the site further, look for our interactive News and Events calendar, spectacular slideshows of images from built and natural heritage properties, and engaging new microsites that focus on key areas of the Trust's business. For instance, there is now a dedicated site for the Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre, complete with a sweeping stage curtain. You will also find a new Heritage Venues site that shows you how you can hold a meeting or host a wedding reception in dramatic heritage settings.

Like any website, it is a work in progress. In the coming months, new microsites will be added – including one dedicated to Fulford Place and Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site. We're also adding a new geomapping feature that will help you find plaques and places of worship that surround our heritage buildings and museums. A new Daytrips section will allow you and your family to find exciting and educational activities – from visits to fascinating local museums to hikes along magnificent trails. And an exciting new web feature – Ontario's Stories – will engage Ontarians with stories that have helped define and shape us.



Go ahead. Get clicking. And see for yourself what all the fuss is about.

www.heritagetrust.on.ca

Gordon Pim is the Senior Web Communications and Marketing Specialist with the Ontario Heritage Trust.

The roots of democracy:
Ontario's first parliament buildings

By Wayne Kelly

York, Upper Canada, ca.1804 (detail), Elizabeth Frances Hale
Image courtesy of Library and Archives Canada, 1970-188-2092

As the bicentennial of the War of 1812 approaches, excitement is building at the site of Ontario's first parliament buildings in Toronto.

Responding to fears of war with the United States, Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe decided to move the provincial capital inland, from Niagara to York (now Toronto). In the newly-founded town, he established Ontario's first purpose-built parliament buildings – two single-storey brick structures near the intersection of present-day Front and Parliament streets. After opening in June 1797, the buildings served many purposes in the young community; they were used for court proceedings, religious services and government.

The site of the first parliament buildings witnessed moments in history that helped to shape early Ontario, including: the birth of representative government, the establishment of York as provincial capital, the settlement and defence of the province, and the limitation of slavery in Upper Canada – making Ontario the first jurisdiction in the British Empire to take steps to do so.

The site also endured through times of war. In 1812, the United States declared war on Britain, hoping to expand its borders into Upper Canada. American forces attacked York in April 1813, overwhelming the small garrison through gallant fighting. After occupying the town from April 27 to May 2, American troops set fire to the parliament buildings and took as war booty (or trophies) the royal standard from Fort York and the speaker's mace and lion statue from the parliament buildings. The mace was returned to Canada in 1934 and is displayed at the Ontario Legislative Building. The royal standard and lion statue are held as trophies of war at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

By December 1820, the parliament buildings had been rebuilt on the same site, but were destroyed again by an accidental chimney fire in 1824. The site took on new life, becoming home to the district jail and later an expansive gas works.

Today, the site is historically significant for its association with the early beginnings of our representative government. The Ontario Heritage Trust unveiled a provincial plaque to commemorate *Ontario's First Parliament Buildings* in 1988. Archaeological excavations have yielded artifacts, including remnants of burnt timbers that provide tangible reminders of the War of 1812.

The Trust acquired part of the site in 2005, and seeks to protect the remainder of the property in the long term. The site has the potential to enable people to discover our early history, to understand the roots of democracy in Ontario, to commemorate the War of 1812 bicentennial and to reflect on the values and laws that define this province.

Wayne Kelly is the Manager of Public Education and Community Development at the Ontario Heritage Trust.

The Enniskillen Valley Land Acquisition Project:
Making stewardship count

By Patricia Lowe

Through the Enniskillen Valley Land Acquisition Project, The Ontario Heritage Trust and the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA) have successfully partnered to acquire natural and cultural heritage lands in the Municipality of Clarington.

The acquisition represents a 530-hectare (1,470-acre) public green space legacy, made possible in part by the Trust's Natural Spaces Land Acquisition and Stewardship Program. An important Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA), it is a component of the provincial Greenbelt and is located in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Natural Linkage and Countryside Areas. The land provides significant groundwater resources, open meadows, mature forests and wetland features in the steeply sloped headwaters of Clarington's Bowmanville Creek. It is a major migratory corridor for wildlife, as well as a thriving cold water fishery interwoven with a rural community, where the inhabitants reside on lands cleared by their forefathers more than 200 years ago.

CLOCA's interest in cultural and natural history allowed it to play a key role in negotiations at many of Enniskillen's kitchen tables, farm fields and woodlots. In listening to the landowners' stories, the staff glimpsed into the heart and soul of this vibrant rural community.

Since 2004, more than 518 hectares (1,280 acres), involving 15 landowners and 22 parcels of land, have been secured by the CLOCA partnership with the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, the Region of Durham, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy Canada, the Trust and the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Fund.

The partners realized early in the process that each property is socially, economically and ecologically linked to the next, requiring a high level of sensitivity during discussions and negotiations.

Future landowner property needs were accommodated through lease agreements, allowing for continued agricultural production and lot severances for individual homesteads – key to ensuring that this investment in conservation sustains a viable rural community. An existing heritage barn on one of the acquired properties was deemed culturally significant and was subsequently moved, rebuilt and restored by a well-known neighbouring farm family.

An aerial view of the Enniskillen Valleylands
Image courtesy of CLOCA

The Enniskillen Valley Land Acquisition Project: Making stewardship count

In addition to funding a portion of the land costs, the Trust was instrumental in the preparation of a series of documents that included environmental site assessments, a baseline document report and stewardship plans for each property. These documents summarize relevant historical and current information on the properties' natural and cultural heritage. In an effort to assist with future land management requirements, CLOCA staff took on the task of preparing these reports. The stewardship plan follows the Trust's Natural Spaces Stewardship Guidelines, documenting existing biodiversity and ecological functions of the land, setting out long-term conservation objectives and describing how they will be achieved.

Along with the thousands of hours of field inventory work by a team of CLOCA staff to support these documents, a series of one-on-one landowner interviews were conducted and documented. These conversations imparted years of history, some of which had never been recorded before, along with personal photos, maps and other historical documentation. The real story of Enniskillen began to unfold.

For example, Ralph Virtue Crescent and Alan Wearn Street, in the hamlet of Enniskillen, are memorials to local young men who died in the Second World War. Recollections of family fishing days and picnics in the headwater creeks highlighted the bounty of wildlife and fish species, defining the historical biodiversity. Sugarbush woodlots dotting the rolling hills of this landscape disappeared during the Great Depression. With so many men unemployed and travelling the dusty roads in search of work, many offered to log these bushes for a meal or a place to sleep. Little did anyone know that a survival strategy for a tight-knit community would compromise the future ecology and function of the Oak Ridges Moraine. It was these personal stories and accounts that really animated the historical landscape and established a vision for creating a comprehensive stewardship plan to accommodate the future needs of this community.

The Trust's involvement in the early stages of acquisition was critical to protect these lands from development and effectively manage them for future generations. The overall goals – to further protect and enhance the cultural and natural heritage of this landscape, to support land and water stewardship efforts and to provide education and recreation opportunities – continue to provide examples of stewardship excellence. CLOCA staff remain committed to making the Enniskillen Valley Land Acquisition Project a successful conservation legacy for the Trust and its land acquisition partners.

CLOCA staff walked all the properties with the landowners, building trust
Image courtesy of CLOCA

CLOCA would like to thank the staff of the Ontario Heritage Trust for their patience and guidance in this project.

Patricia Lowe is the Director of Watershed Stewardship, Education and Communications at CLOCA.

A barn gets a second chance at the Knox Family Pumpkin Farm
Image courtesy of CLOCA

Fall migration in the Enniskillen Valley
Image courtesy of CLOCA

INVESTING IN PRESERVATION

By Sean Fraser, Erin Semande and Mike Sawchuck

Wood conservator and master craftsman Alan Stacey instructing heritage staff in traditional preservation techniques at the Ontario Heritage Centre

It is an unfortunate reality that the preservation of our heritage remains the exception rather than the norm. What is a common-sense approach to living within our means is typically seen as obstructionist, negative and a barrier to progress. Preservation is commonly pitted against economic development. There is a misguided perception that we must either celebrate and retain our heritage, or cast it aside in favour of an increased tax base, renewed infrastructure and job creation.

Preservation is a prime investment capable of unmatched long-term ecological, cultural and financial returns. Significant investments in preservation are already being made throughout Ontario in the form of education and awareness, adaptive reuse, public recapitalization of our heritage infrastructure and proactive volunteerism. All of these investments combine to make Ontario a better place – now and for future generations.

Awareness and education provide the foundation to any investment in preservation. Without a healthy sector of skilled trades, contractors and professionals, investing in preservation would be impractical. There are few experts and practitioners in Ontario – certainly far fewer than are needed to provide adequate conservation support to the growing inventories of heritage properties. The Ontario Heritage Trust's mandate stresses education, and it provides assistance by sponsoring lectures and workshops, mentoring students and supporting interns and co-operative placements.

There are several post-secondary institutions that offer formal education or training in the specialized field of cultural and natural conservation. These include: Willowbank School of Restoration Arts (Queenston), Algonquin College Heritage Institute (Perth), the Heritage Resource Centre (University of Waterloo), Fleming College's Museum Management and Curatorship and Ecosystem Management Technology Programs (Peterborough), Queens University's Master of Art Conservation Program (Kingston), Carleton University's School of Canadian Studies (Ottawa), and Ryerson University's Continuing Education Program in Architectural Preservation and Conservation (Toronto). Many of these programs connect to the heritage sector through partnerships with employers, municipalities, private consulting firms and non-governmental organizations. With a large number of the province's conservation experts edging closer to retirement, it is reassuring to see the development and success of these new programs in meeting demands for training and education.

INVESTING IN PRESERVATION

Woodstock Town Hall National Historic Site is protected by a Trust conservation easement and is owned by the City of Woodstock. The landmark received an endowment grant to assist in its long-term maintenance.

We are also witnessing investment in cultural preservation when individuals and organizations choose heritage sites as venues for activities and locations for businesses. Few things can guarantee the preservation of a historic place better than active use. Without a realistic or feasible purpose, a vacant building's fate is often sealed. Sometimes, a tenant or owner is prepared to invest in a historic place because of its special character. Customers might frequent a restaurant because of its heritage ambience, and artists set up their galleries in industrial buildings because of the esthetic tension between new and old.

Buildings at risk from neglect or threatened with demolition are often not identified until long after deterioration has begun. In a final effort to save them, there may be a movement to have them designated or fitted with a new use. But, often, this approach is a forlorn hope. Fortunately, it's becoming increasingly common for sites to find new uses before they become endangered. Some individuals and organizations actively seek heritage sites as venues for predefined uses. Numerous restaurants and pubs in Ontario deliberately select historic sites such as houses, mills, churches and factories. Examples of this type of investment and branding include The Keg Steakhouse and Bar in St. Catharines (the former Independent Rubber Co. factory), the Vicar's Vice in Hamilton (former Methodist Church) and the Oakland Hall Inn in Aurora (a former farmhouse). There is so much interest in the hospitality sector for these cosy old buildings that, where they cannot be found, they are sometimes relocated from other areas or simply replicated.

Investment in preservation – especially public investment – seems to happen in cycles. Ideally, with proper maintenance, planning and a sustained effort, there should be constant and continuous investment in preservation. This idea, however, seems to be contrary to our society's approach to building life-cycle costing. We are bombarded daily by the "maintenance free" slogans of modern products and designs. When one looks at the major historic sites in Canada, there is a clear pattern of investment typically tied to funding priorities. For instance, during the Great Depression, a series of make-work projects transformed Canada's colonial fortifications through a wave of renovations. To coincide with the centennial celebrations of Confederation in 1967, the Government of Canada launched a massive campaign of heritage programs that saw financial reinvestment in our major historic sites.

With the passing of the Ontario Heritage Act in 1975, a period of provincial reinvestment through heritage grants began. This peaked in the 1980s and

The Vicar's Vice Restaurant and Pub (a former Methodist church), Hamilton

The Mary Webb Cultural and Community Centre (former Highgate United Church), Chatham-Kent

continued until the early 1990s. Many large institutional historic sites – such as courthouses, town halls and other civic landmarks – underwent major rehabilitation to extend their use or to bring new uses to these significant, but often deteriorated, heritage sites. The period from the 1990s until recently has been one of sporadic government heritage funding.

During this same period, a number of municipal heritage funding programs were created, and the province provided support to not-for-profit organizations through the Heritage Challenge Fund (1999-2001). In recent years, the heritage property tax rebate has been the major sustained incentive program for property owners in those municipalities that have decided to participate. This program, which reduces property tax by 10 to 40 per cent, targets the private sector and is municipally administered at the discretion of each local council. With the economic downturn in the fall of 2008, the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario responded with unprecedented stimulus funding and infrastructure support. This recent funding has benefited many large public heritage sites; many of the projects are ongoing.

This overview of public investment in preservation reveals a pattern of generational funding – an approach that encourages deferred maintenance by favouring one-time capital funding over continued operating support. Many owners cannot afford to maintain heritage properties that have endured long periods of deferred maintenance, and the current system makes new construction a more feasible option. The economic reality is that funds invested in preservation projects reach the local economy faster, because the focus is on labour and specialized skills, which leads to long-term employment. New construction requires significantly higher material and merchandise costs, and reduces the need for skilled labour. Our inability to foster a maintenance culture has left us with a weak and underdeveloped maintenance industry. It's clear that the best form of preservation and investment is one that is constant, incremental and sustainable.

Taking action before a cultural or natural heritage site has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance or other destructive action is key to prudent investment in preservation. Sometimes a site is saved through the tireless efforts of a few who proactively invest their time, money and passion to protect, preserve and find a new use for cherished local landmarks. In the natural heritage sector, volunteers form local land trusts to preserve environmentally sensitive, scenic and unique lands from redevelopment and loss. In the cultural heritage sector, local chapters of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, local historical societies and volunteer groups dedicated to specific historic sites are playing an increasingly important role in the preservation movement.

In 2009, a few individuals banded together in Chatham-Kent to ensure the preservation of a unique heritage building. With a dwindling congregation, historic Highgate United Church closed as a place of worship in June 2010. Well in advance of the closure, a group of local volunteers formed the Mary Webb Centre and approached the congregation. The group contacted the Ontario Heritage Trust for technical assistance and advice. A special workshop on the adaptive reuse of the building and a brainstorming session were facilitated by the Trust during the 2010 Ontario Heritage Conference.

The Mary Webb Centre developed a business plan for acquiring and adapting the church as a cultural and community centre. In December 2010,

INVESTING IN PRESERVATION

For more information on the Mary Webb Cultural and Community Centre, visit www.marywebbcentre.ca

the Mary Webb Centre acquired the building from the United Church. Recently, the group received not-for-profit status with its official name, The Mary Webb Cultural and Community Centre; they plan to secure charitable status to enable them to apply for grants. Now that the former church has been secured, the municipality is proceeding with the designation of the landmark under the Ontario Heritage Act.

A number of other community groups are monitoring the success of The Mary Webb Cultural and Community Centre. Not only is the case study inspirational, but it also speaks to the importance of early action, multiple partnerships and a solid business plan. This example also illustrates the value of establishing good relations with the owner, rather than being adversarial or confrontational.

Investment is rooted in the premise that little actions can lead to big returns in the long term. Investments on the scale of multiple generations, rather than short-term cycles, are best when the goal is preservation of our cultural and natural environment. What is true for a diversified financial portfolio is true of investments in preservation. Investments are most successful if they are prudent, steady and sustained over a long period. Financial investment is important to preservation, but equally important is education, volunteerism, willingness to secure partnerships, personal commitment and proactive community leadership. Investment in preservation today is a venture from which Ontarians are certain to draw dividends in the future.

Sean Fraser is the Manager of Acquisitions and Conservation Services at the Trust.

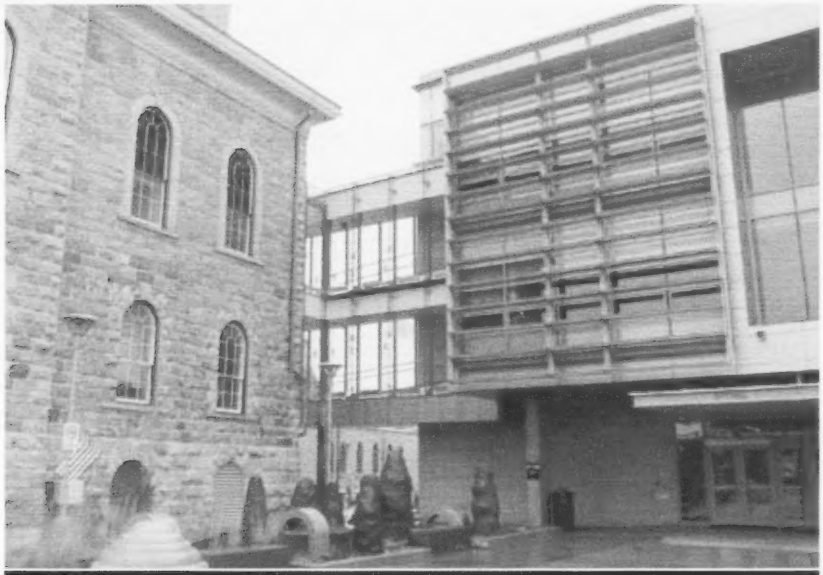
Erin Semande is a Researcher at the Trust.

Mike Sawchuck is a Community Programs Officer at the Trust.

The red house, now the Oakland Hall Inn, is a designated heritage property in Aurora that has been adapted for use as a restaurant, lounge and banquet hall

Heritage in the public realm:
everything old is new

By Thomas Wicks



Cambridge City Hall

Ontario is growing. As municipalities across the province expand, so too does the need to revitalize existing municipal facilities to house and adapt to new services. Recent examples illustrate that through thoughtful design and proper investment, existing heritage structures can be adapted and preserved, while suiting the needs of the growing communities they serve.

Integrating a heritage structure and a modern institutional facility comes with its challenges – but also its rewards. It provides an opportunity to combine modern design and the conservation of existing structures within a single, multi-dimensional project. The Ontario Heritage Trust is able to directly participate in and inform best practice conservation when properties with heritage easement agreements are undergoing large-scale capital investment, ensuring that heritage conservation remains the focus of the revitalization.

A number of provincially significant heritage properties have recently received recapitalization funding. These projects illustrate that heritage buildings can be adapted through careful design and appropriate intervention. They also reveal the building system life cycle nature of architectural preservation that requires renewed capital investment every 20 to 30 years.

The Milton County Courthouse was able to integrate the existing heritage courthouse and jail yard walls within a modern municipal complex that takes its architectural cues from the 1855 limestone structure. The result is a site with expanded services and a new structure that is both distinct from and subservient to the existing heritage building. Linked with a glass walkway, the new building's scale complements its 19th-century neighbour.

In Guelph, the city hall designed by architect William Thomas and constructed in 1856 has undergone similar recapitalization. An addition contained within the existing 19th-century walls of a heavily altered structure to the west of City Hall integrates old and new. Linked through the existing stone walls, the new building's scale takes the architectural language of the William Thomas-designed Italianate structure, and harmonizes it with a contemporary aspect.

Cambridge's expanded city hall not only meets the needs of a growing city, it links old and new, while incorporating conservation work to the 1858 structure. Stepped back to create more public space around the new building and to retain the stand-alone presence of the heritage structure, the expanded city hall once again shows how respecting the design of the existing building in terms of scale, proportion and materiality doesn't stymie modern architectural expression.

These projects demonstrate that heritage buildings not only require adaptation to changing environments, but shows that they are up to the challenge. Through careful attention to detail as well as a holistic approach to context, capital investments are not just opportunities to build new, but also to renew local heritage assets and enhance the local sense of place.

Thomas Wicks is the Easements Program Coordinator at the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Milton County Courthouse

Lessons in preservation:
A profile of two Ontario schools

Willowbank School of Restoration Arts

By Julian Smith

Willowbank's courses in 2011 include: Cultural Landscape Theory and Practice in May, the Italy Field School in June, and Masonry Conservation in July. For more information, visit www.willowbank.ca

Willowbank School of Restoration Arts is an emerging institution that reflects what Gustavo Araoz, President of the International Council on Monuments and Sites, has called a paradigm shift in the heritage conservation field. This shift is towards a more ecological and integrated approach to design and development. It blurs the boundaries between cultural and natural heritage. It also accepts contemporary layers in the richly layered settings of historic places, as part of a dynamic rather than static world view. It deals with both intangible and tangible values, and maps both of them using a cultural landscape framework.

Willowbank is outside the formal college and university system, and this allows it to break down the boundaries between academic and hands-on training. Students in the three-year Diploma Program are as comfortable in their steel-toed shoes and hard hats in the workshops or the field as they are in seminar settings and intellectual debates.

The school's programs take place within the beautiful 13-acre setting of Willowbank National Historic Site. It is a place with a rich aboriginal heritage spanning 8,000 years, as well as a more recent early-19th-century estate house and grounds. Appropriately enough, the 1834 mansion is the work of master builder John Latshaw, a fitting model for the training of a new generation of master builders. The site is a key laboratory for the students in their understanding of layered sites and the many perspectives and disciplines that play a part in their evolution.

Willowbank has no permanent faculty; the students work with more than 50 different instructors, a number of whom are aboriginal mentors. They learn to think of the world in non-hierarchical terms, an essential prerequisite for understanding the new paradigm.

Although Willowbank is a young school, the success of its graduates confirms the fact that the new paradigm is taking hold. Graduates are working as stone masons and carpenters on National Historic Sites, as project managers for major conservation and adaptive reuse projects, as designers and advisers for developers, as senior heritage planners in municipal and provincial governments, as independent consultants and in major architectural offices. In almost all cases, their success comes from their comfort in moving across boundaries that were becoming too rigid and counterproductive.

This spring, Willowbank will be announcing the creation of a Centre for Cultural Landscape. This will provide a more visible external presence for Willowbank in demonstrating the new paradigm in theory and practice.

Julian Smith is the Executive Director of the Willowbank School of Restoration Arts.

Executive Director Julian Smith reviews design proposals with Heritage Conservation Program students
Photo courtesy of Willowbank School of Restoration Arts

Master mason and Willowbank Faculty Associate Danny Barber works alongside student Emily Kszan as she hones her skills squaring up a limestone block
Photo courtesy of Willowbank School of Restoration Arts

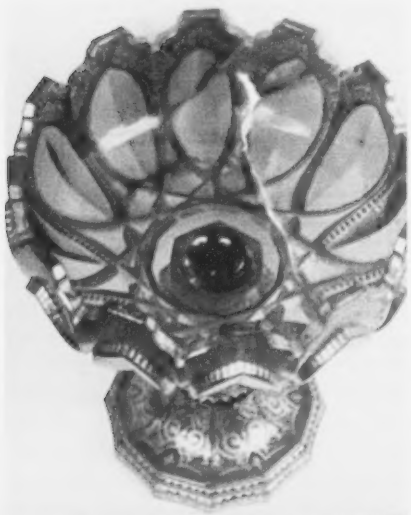
For more information on the Master of Art Conservation program, visit www.queensu.ca.

Queen's University Master of Art Conservation program

By Tom Riddolls

The Queen's University Master of Art Conservation program offers Canada's only graduate degree in the conservation of art and cultural artifacts, and brings together some of Canada's top professionals and students for study and advancement of the field. Over the last four decades, the program has formed valuable partnerships with organizations committed to cultural preservation. Parks Canada, the Canadian Conservation Institute, the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Ontario Heritage Trust have all provided expertise and instruction, and, just as important, artifacts in need of treatment for the training of students.

The Trust's cultural and archaeological collections have provided many challenging objects for our students. Recently, a large cranberry glass punch bowl from Fulford Place in Brockville was conserved and returned to the Trust. Glass is one of the most difficult types of object encountered by students, as it is so unforgiving. When reassembling a broken piece, if any joints are misaligned, the last piece will never fit. Chips and missing fragments from coloured glass must be toned so that they match both reflected and transmitted light, and adhesives that can be used to repair the glass are limited.



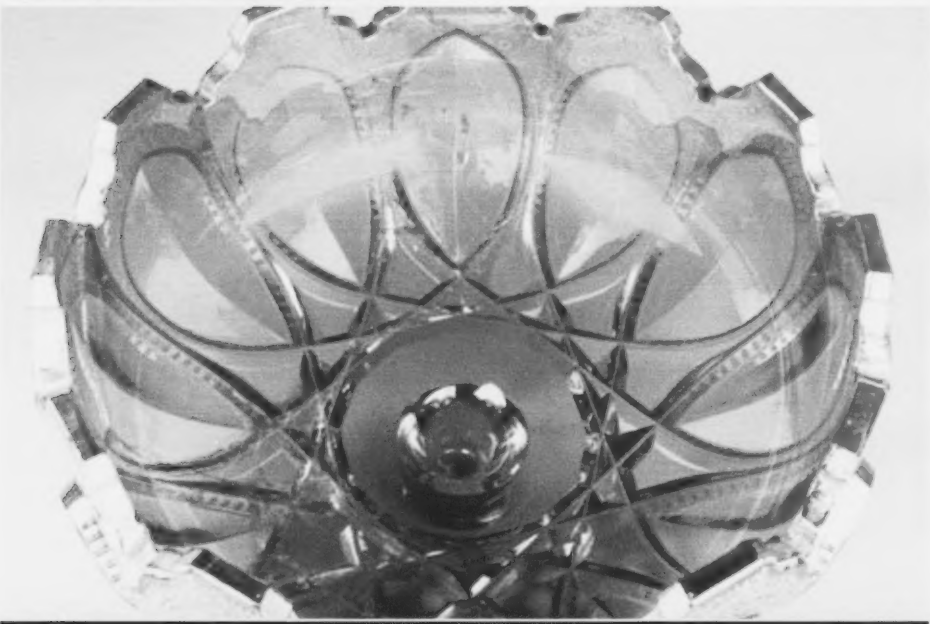
The cranberry punch-bowl before treatment, showing previously repaired breaklines filled with excessive amount of adhesive

Due to its complexity of treatment, the cranberry punch bowl was treated by four different students, starting in 1997. Lisa Ellis (Art Con '98) was first to work on the bowl, which had endured a bad repair job at the hands of a well-meaning individual after it had been dropped. Yellowed epoxy was thickly applied and clear tape covered the inside joints. Lisa worked to reduce the epoxy that obscured the surface.

Michael Belman (Art Con '02) spent eight months slowly breaking down the old epoxy in a solvent chamber and then used a conservation grade, non-yellowing epoxy to put it all back together again. Michael's plan was to then add a thin layer of cranberry-coloured epoxy to fill in the surface. However, the epoxy dyes available 10 years ago were unstable, and Michael's test colours proved unreliable.

The bowl sat in a cupboard for five years before Sara Serban (Art Con '08) took it up once more. Using a new dye for epoxies, Sara was successful in developing a colour matching recipe and technique. The final execution of the repair, however, was left to Tania Mottus (Art Con '10). Following the techniques proposed by the previous students, Tania painstakingly added coloured epoxy, drop by drop, over several months to slowly build the depth of shade to match the original cranberry glass. In spring 2010, the object was returned to Fulford Place after a 14 year absence.

While not typical, and no doubt a source of frustration at times for the students involved, the treatment of Fulford Place's cranberry glass punch bowl held valuable lessons in patience and demonstrated how learning from your peers can help achieve high-quality results.



The punch bowl after treatment

Tom Riddolls is a Lab Instructor in the Department of Art Conservation at Queen's University.

Seeing the unseen: archaeology and geophysics

By Dena Doroszenko

Several geophysical methods were used at the Trust's Chedoke Estate in Hamilton, including resistivity (shown in photo), magnetometer and electromagnetic survey

As population growth results in substantial impact to Ontario's landscapes, efficient and cost-effective methods to locate, map and acquire information from archaeological sites are needed – before the sites are lost.

Archaeological excavation is essentially a destructive science. As each archaeological site is excavated, it is systematically destroyed. Consequently, each step of the excavation can be painstakingly slow, due to the need to carefully document each find and each level. As with every scientific endeavor, technology is beginning to change the way archaeologists work. Archaeogeophysics refers to ground-based subsurface mapping using a number of different sensing technologies (see sidebar). Geophysical methods provide additional ways to examine the remains of earlier cultures and give us clues to our province's past.

Geophysics involves methods of data collection that allow archaeologists to discover and map buried archaeological features in ways not possible using traditional field excavation methods. Using a variety of instruments, physical and chemical changes in the ground, related to the presence or absence of buried materials, can be measured and mapped. When these changes can be connected to certain aspects of archaeological sites such as architecture (buried walls), use areas (hearths), or other associated cultural features (artifacts), high definition maps and images of buried remains can be produced.

Survey results can be used to guide excavation and to give archaeologists insight into the patterning of non-excavated parts of the sites. The appropriate geophysical techniques that should be employed in an archaeological investigation will vary from location to location. Each technique has strengths and constraints that make it more or less effective in detecting sub-surface features, depending on the environmental conditions. Interestingly, geophysics can detect and map features both underground and underwater.

An example of mapped conductivity data from an area south of Assumption Church (Windsor), a property protected by a Trust conservation easement, showing the presence of modern utilities. Image: Benjamin Lane

Gradiometer survey method being used at the British American Institute Cemetery located across the road from the Trust's Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site in Dresden

Archaeologists can be greatly assisted in setting excavation priorities if geophysical methods are used first. These methods have the ability to allow large areas of the subsurface to be investigated, precisely mapped and interpreted based on their form, distribution, context and measurement characteristics. Irregularities in the landscape indicated by geophysics are factual. In other words, a real physical cause must exist in the ground. Ground-truthing by archaeologists includes verifying the presence of archaeological features detected through the use of geophysics by placing excavation units in those areas.

Due to provincial legislation in Ontario, archaeological assessments are often required prior to the clearing of an area and construction of new buildings. Frequently, the time available for the archaeological effort may be limited. Geophysical methods may be of great value as the site will often be totally destroyed by the new construction. Determining the impact of the existing environment on the ability to use geophysics must be considered and evaluated by geoscientists and archaeologists in order to develop innovative investigation methods. As new equipment and software are introduced, new demands are placed on archaeologists to understand this technology and to learn how data can be assembled into a coherent whole. This permits one to combine data from classes of measurement such as artifact densities, topography, magnetometry, ground penetrating radar, conductivity, global positioning systems and aerial/satellite imagery.

The human past has been the subject of scientific inquiry for centuries, and has long been approached through studying material remains recovered from traditional archaeological excavations. In recent decades, the advancing fields of geophysics and geographic information systems have enhanced the toolkit for archaeologists. Geophysics has the potential to assist decision makers with better access to the archaeological record, in a way that is non-invasive or destructive and that may stimulate more opportunities for in situ conservation.

Dena Doroszenko is the Archaeologist at the Ontario Heritage Trust.

Geophysical survey methods

Electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) is the measurement of the soil's electrical resistance, and is useful for finding buried wall foundations, ditches, burial areas and a range of other features.

Electromagnetic (EM) Conductivity is the inverse of resistivity. It measures the ability of the soil to conduct electricity. Items that conduct electricity easily show up as high in conductivity, indicating potential buried materials such as walls, foundations, roads, wells, canals, pits, hearths and graves.

Magnetometry is suitable for finding buried hearths, walls, ditches or any magnetized (heated) materials, such as burned soils. A gradiometer is an instrument that measures slight changes in the earth's magnetic field.

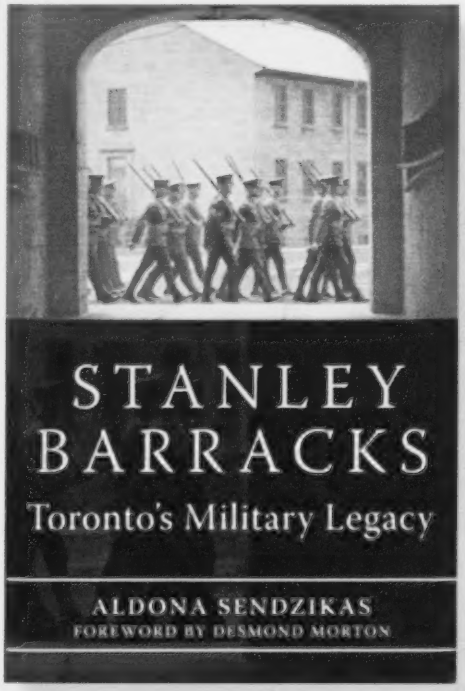
Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) is used to send a radar signal through the ground and measure the transit time for sending and return. The results are compiled into a three-dimensional map of what lies beneath the surface, such as hearths, post-holes, ditches, voids or cavities, wall foundations and burials.

. . . the shelf

Stanley Barracks: Toronto's Military Legacy,
by Aldona Sendzikas

Dundurn Press. Stanley Barracks begins with the construction in 1840-41 of the new facility that replaced the then decaying Fort York Barracks. The book recounts the background of the last facility operated by the British military in Toronto and how Canada's own Permanent Force was developed.

During the course of the stories told in this history, we learn about Canadian participation in war, including the two world wars and the barracks' use as an internment camp for "enemy aliens"; civil-military relations as Toronto's expansion encroached on the lands and buildings of the barracks; the establishment and growth of Toronto's Canadian National Exhibition; the struggles and discrimination faced by immigrants in Canada in wartime; the employment of the barracks as emergency housing during Toronto's post-war housing shortage; and the origins of Canada's famed Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In short, Stanley Barracks is the story of Toronto.

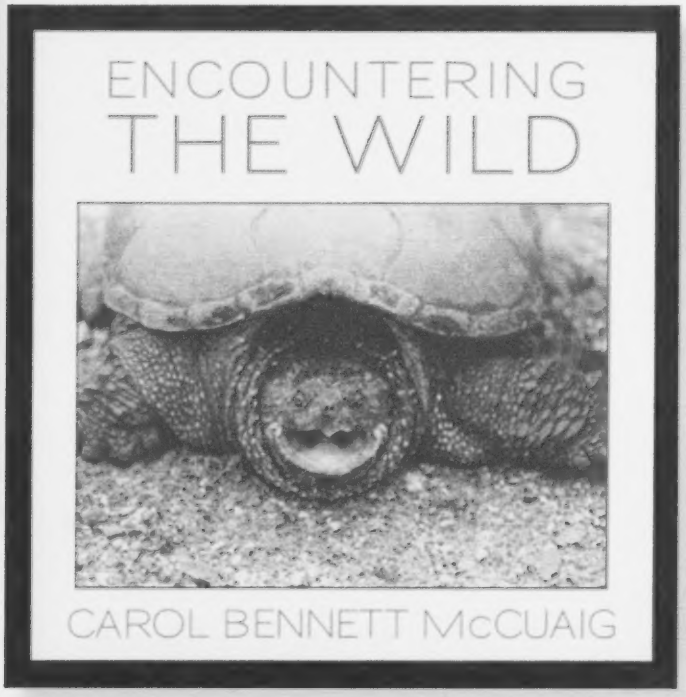


Encountering the Wild
by Carol Bennett McCuaig

Dundurn Press. Poison Acres, 250 acres of wilderness in Renfrew County, Ontario, long dedicated to the preservation of natural habitat, has been home to nature writer Carol Bennett McCuaig for many years. Her keen powers of observation, coupled with her insights into wildlife behaviour and her evocative writing style, have produced this captivating collection of stories.

Whether noting the courtship rituals of turkey vultures and red foxes or finding a black bear on her roof, an ermine in her bedroom, and a cougar on her lawn, Carol is always surrounded by the delights and challenges of living in a wilderness setting. Even night visitors bring joy, including flying squirrels at the bird feeder, a whippoorwill peering in a window, and a midnight standoff between a porcupine and a skunk.

Encountering the Wild is a delightful book that will appeal to country lovers in Canada and beyond.



In the coming months . . .

The Ontario Heritage Trust regularly hosts or attends events that impact our rich and unique heritage. From provincial plaque unveilings to conferences, we are busy year-round with activities that promote heritage conservation in Ontario.

Here are some of the events and activities occurring over the next few months.
Visit our website at www.heritagetrust.on.ca for more details!

May 2011 – The Niagara Apothecary opens for the summer season, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Step through the doors and see how pharmacists practised their profession over 100 years ago. Hours of operation, from Mother's Day to Labour Day, daily from Noon to 6 p.m., then weekends to Thanksgiving (second Monday in October). Open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. during July-August weekends.

May 21, 2011 – Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site opens for the summer season, Dresden. Join us in 2011 to celebrate the achievements of Reverend Josiah Henson and other early Black settlers. Hours of operation: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Noon to 4 p.m.; open Mondays in July, August and holidays.

June 3-5, 2011 – Ontario Heritage Conference, Cobourg. This year's theme – "Creating the Will" – will be highlighted through workshops, site visits, panel discussions and keynote speakers. The conference is presented by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and Community Heritage Ontario, with sponsorship from the Trust.

June 11 to September 4, 2011 – Barnum House opens for the summer season, Grafton. In 1819, Eliakim Barnum built this stylish house that stands today as one of Ontario's finest examples of neoclassical architecture. Open June, July and August, Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June 11 to September 4, 2011 – Homewood Museum opens for the summer season, Maitland. Enjoy tours and special events at this large two-storey stone house (one of the oldest in Ontario). Open Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

June 11 to September 4, 2011 – Inge-Va opens for the summer season, Perth. Explore period rooms with original furnishings, as well as exhibits and gardens, at this late-Georgian stone residence. Open Wednesday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Canada Southern Railway Station, St. Thomas
Photo courtesy of the North America Railway Hall of Fame

June 17, 2011 – Provincial plaque unveiling to commemorate the Canada Southern Railway Station, St. Thomas. This Italianate-style building was constructed in 1871-1873 as the headquarters for the Canadian Southern Railway by American railway promoters, as well as a passenger station for its St. Thomas service. The station was one of the largest ever built in Ontario and remains the largest of its style in North America.

June 23, 2011 – Provincial plaque unveiling to commemorate The Armenian Boys' Farm Home, Georgetown, Toronto. From 1923, 138 children – orphaned during the Armenian Genocide – were brought to Cedarvale Farm by the newly formed Armenian Relief Association of Canada. Today, the preserved buildings that comprise Cedarvale Park stand as a testament to this international humanitarian resettlement effort.

July 4 -15, 2011 – Archeological Camp, Spadina Museum, Toronto. Since 2002, the Trust has offered a summer day camp program in archaeology for children aged 10 to 14 years old, in partnership with the Spadina Museum. Check the Toronto Parks and Recreation Department's Summer Fun Guide for details.

July 14, 2011 – Provincial plaque unveiling to commemorate Ball's Bridge, Maitland Valley, Huron County. Built in 1885, Ball's Bridge is one of Ontario's oldest bridges. It crosses the Maitland River, approximately 14 km east of Goderich. At risk of abandonment or destruction, Ball's Bridge was repaired and reopened in 2007, due largely to the efforts of a concerned and dedicated group of local residents.

July 30, 2011 – Emancipation Day at Uncle Tom's Cabin Historic Site, Dresden. A celebration commemorating the end of slavery in the British Empire. For more information, visit www.uncletomscabin.org.

For information on Doors Open Ontario events, and to vote for your favourite sites, visit www.doorsopenontario.on.ca. Trails Open Ontario activities are listed at www.heritagetrust.on.ca.

Visit Moose Factory

Step back into Canada's frontier history

Moose Factory, an island just south of James Bay, was established in 1673 as the main trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company.

The company's staff house and three servant houses recall the settlement's bygone era.

www.heritagetrust.on.ca www.ontarionorthland.ca

Owned by the Ontario Heritage Trust and operated as a museum in partnership with the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission

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www.doorsopenontario.on.ca.

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Dresden

Explore Ontario's Black heritage.

Fulford Place
Brockville

35 rooms with a view.
Visit Fulford Place museum.

Homewood Museum
Maitland

Visit one of the oldest houses in Ontario.

Inge-Va
Perth

Uncovering history.

Enoch Turner Schoolhouse
Toronto

This is learning . . . old-school.

Barnum House
Grafton

Discover this neoclassical treasure.

For more information, visit
www.heritagetrust.on.ca/museums

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